

# Hospital Resource Guide

for elected officials



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## Executive Summary

Nebraska hospitals are the cornerstone of health and wellness for individuals in the communities they serve. Hospitals also drive economic growth. The information presented in this publication highlights the impact that Nebraska hospitals have on the areas they serve. By investing in local communities, Nebraska hospitals make the state a better place to live, work, learn, and grow.

It is no longer just about patients coming through the doors of the hospital. While Nebraska hospitals have consistently been leaders and partners to help build strong, healthy communities, hospitals are now being called upon to increase their accountability and contributions.

Hospitals care for the sick and injured, regardless of their ability to pay or the net cost to the hospital. Beyond charity care, bad debt, and unpaid costs of public programs (Medicare and Medicaid), Nebraska hospitals also support professional medical education, subsidize health services, medical research, and more inside their walls. Beyond the brick and mortar, hospitals also provide community health improvement services, community building activities, cash, and in-kind donations to local organizations.

Nebraska hospitals stimulate the state's economy by providing essential jobs throughout the state, contributing millions of dollars to the state's economy. They directly employ more than 50,000 Nebraskans, and support a vast network of suppliers, contractors, and ancillary businesses resulting in more than 50,000 additional jobs in the state.

Nebraska hospitals are available 24/7 to meet the needs of all patients whether it be illness, injury, treatment, rehabilitation, education, wellness care, prenatal care, or palliative care. Hospitals contribute significantly to the goal of improving the overall health of Nebraskans while aiding the less fortunate. This is done from a sense of mission and purpose.

The hospital and health care industries continue to face challenges and obstacles. Regardless, Nebraska hospitals consistently provide nationally recognized, award-winning excellence in quality, patient care, patient satisfaction, and state-of-the-art technology.

Hospitals are well-versed in adapting and doing more with less, all the while focusing on providing better quality and better patient outcomes and experiences in the pursuit of more efficient, cost-effective care — and doing it with kindness and compassion.

Nebraska hospitals and health systems remain committed to providing access to high-quality, affordable health care while innovatively transforming Nebraska into a center of excellence. The NHA remains committed to empowering you and other health care leaders with the knowledge, information, and support that enables you to act boldly and decisively to benefit patients, employees, and future generations.

We are Nebraska Hospitals.



Jeremy Nordquist  
NHA President

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# Nebraska Hospital Association

## Key Contacts

### **Jeremy Nordquist, MPA**

President

Nebraska Hospital Association

o: (402) 742-8141

c: (402) 578-6442

e: jnordquist@nebraskahospitals.org

### **Meghan Chaffee, JD**

Chief Advocacy & Legal Officer

Nebraska Hospital Association

o: (402) 742-8563

c: (402) 253-9784

e: mchaffee@nebraskahospitals.org

### **David Slattery**

Senior Director, State & Rural Advocacy

Nebraska Hospital Association

o: (402) 742-8153

c: (402) 318-1672

e: dslattery@nebraskahospitals.org

### **Willa Prescott**

Director, Advocacy Communications

Nebraska Hospital Association

o: (402) 647-0022

c: (402) 541-8525

e: wprescott@nebraskahospitals.org

### **Tim Johnson**

Chief Financial Officer

Nebraska Hospital Association

o: (402) 356-5517

c: (303) 589-9350

e: tjohnson@nebraskahospitals.org

### **Michael Feagler, MBA, FHFMA**

Vice President, Medicaid Administration

Nebraska Hospital Association

o: (402) 742-8144

c: (402) 937-3154

e: mfeagler@nebraskahospitals.org

### **Andy Hale, MPA**

Chief People & Member Engagement Officer

Nebraska Hospital Association

o: (402) 742-8146

c: (402) 708-3228

e: ahale@nebraskahospitals.org

### **Margaret Woepfel, MSN, RN, CPHQ, FACHE**

Chief Nursing & Informatics Officer

Nebraska Hospital Association

o: (402) 742-8145

c: (402) 202-4948

e: mwoepfel@nebraskahospitals.org

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## Purpose

The Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) represents 92 hospitals and health systems — providing acute care, rehabilitative, behavioral, psychiatric, and pediatric care. Our members provide a broad range of services — not just within their walls, but across the health care continuum and within their communities.

The state of health care today is dynamic and complex and spans local, state, and federal boundaries. This guide is intended to provide an overview of the health care system.

We hope this publication is educational and informative and we look forward to working together to improve the health and well-being of Nebraskans.



### DID YOU KNOW?

We see them frequently, but maybe we don't give them much thought. Whether driving down the road and passing the blue-and-white "H" symbol or driving by the brick-and-mortar hospital building, both are signs that hospitals are integrated into their communities. Unfortunately, many do not fully appreciate hospitals until we need the services behind the H.

## The Unique Role of a Hospital

Nebraska hospitals are vital to meeting the health care needs of the communities they serve by providing a wide range of acute care and diagnostic services, supporting public health needs, and offering a myriad of other services to promote the health and well-being of the community.

Other types of health care providers may also deliver some of these services; however, three things make the role of the hospital unique:

- **24/7 ACCESS TO CARE:**

The provision of health care services, including specialized resources, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7), 365 days a year;

- **THE SAFETY-NET ROLE:**

Caring for all patients who seek emergency care, regardless of ability to pay; and

- **DISASTER READINESS AND RESPONSE:**

Ensuring that staff and facilities are prepared to care for victims of large-scale accidents, natural disasters, epidemics, and terrorist actions.

These critical roles, collectively known as the "standby" role, represent an essential component of our nation's health and public safety infrastructure. The standby role of hospitals is not explicitly funded. Instead, the funding is built into a hospital's overall cost structure and supported by certain revenues received from providing direct patient care.



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# Types of Hospitals

Nebraska law defines health care institutions, including hospitals. However, the classification of a health care institution as a hospital is determined by rules promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services.

## Hospital Classifications

### GENERAL ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS

provide treatment for a brief but severe injury, episode of illness, conditions that result from disease or trauma, or during recovery from surgery. Acute care is generally provided by a variety of clinical staff.

### PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM (PPS) HOSPITALS

are acute care hospitals that are reimbursed by Medicare and Medicaid based on a predetermined, fixed amount. The payment amount for a particular service is derived based on the classification system of that service (for example, diagnosis-related groups for inpatient hospital services).

### CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS (CAH)

provide limited-service, acute-care hospitals located in rural areas. CAH is a special Medicare designation for payment that is limited to hospitals with no more than 25 beds and an average length of stay fewer than four days. There is a state and federal approval process required by the Nebraska Department of Community Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for this designation. Under Medicare and Medicaid, CAHs are paid on a cost basis instead of a diagnosis-related group (DRG).

### SPECIALTY HOSPITALS

are acute care hospitals that provide a limited service for one of the following types of care: children's medical; long-term acute care; psychiatric; or rehabilitative.

### STATE HOSPITALS

which are owned by the State of Nebraska. Likewise, federal hospitals, such as veterans' hospitals, are owned by the federal government. Nebraska owns one state regional hospital for behavioral health; one acute care hospital and one specialty hospital. Nebraska has two correctional facility hospitals.

### CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

are hospitals with inpatients predominantly age 18 or younger. Children's Hospitals provide vital health care to all children, regardless of ability to pay. There are three Children's hospitals in Nebraska.

### REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

also known as an inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF), is a hospital that means to provide therapeutic and restorative services to individuals seeking to maintain, reestablish, or improve motor skills and other functioning deemed medically necessary for daily living, that have been lost or impaired due to sickness and/or injury.

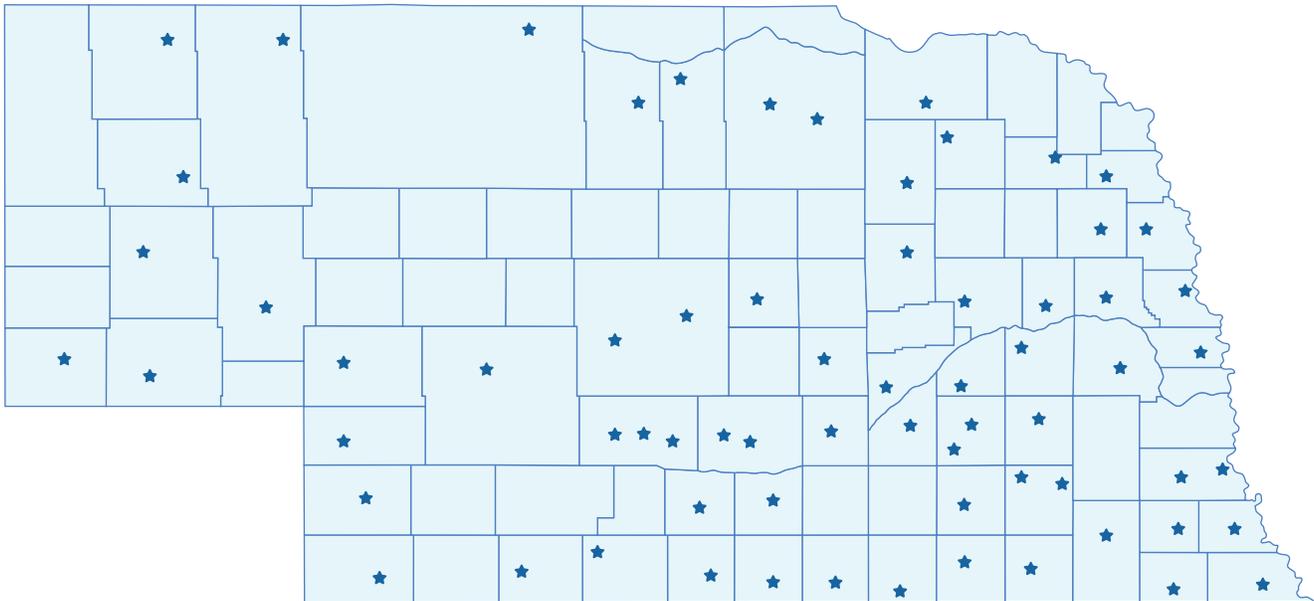
### LONG TERM CARE HOSPITALS (LTCH)

provide care to patients with medically complex problems. These complex diagnoses include, but are not limited to – traumatic brain injury, conditions requiring prolonged mechanical ventilation, paralysis, very significant wound care, and other conditions resulting in organ failure – resulting in the patient requiring a hospital-level of care for an extended period. To qualify as a Long-Term Care Hospital for Medicare payment, a facility must meet Medicare's conditions of participation for acute care hospitals and have an average length of stay greater than 25 days for its Medicare patients. Medicare is a major payer for most LTCHs, accounting for about two-thirds of LTCH discharges.

### RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITALS (REH)

are a provider type established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 to address the growing concern over closures of rural hospitals. The REH designation provides an opportunity for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and certain rural hospitals to avert potential closure and continue to provide essential services for the communities they serve. Conversion to an REH allows for the provision of emergency services, observation care, and additional medical and health outpatient services, if elected by the REH, that do not exceed an annual per patient average of 24 hours. In 2024, Warren Memorial Hospital in Friend, Nebraska became the first Rural Emergency Hospital in Nebraska.

# Critical Access Hospitals / Rural Emergency Hospitals



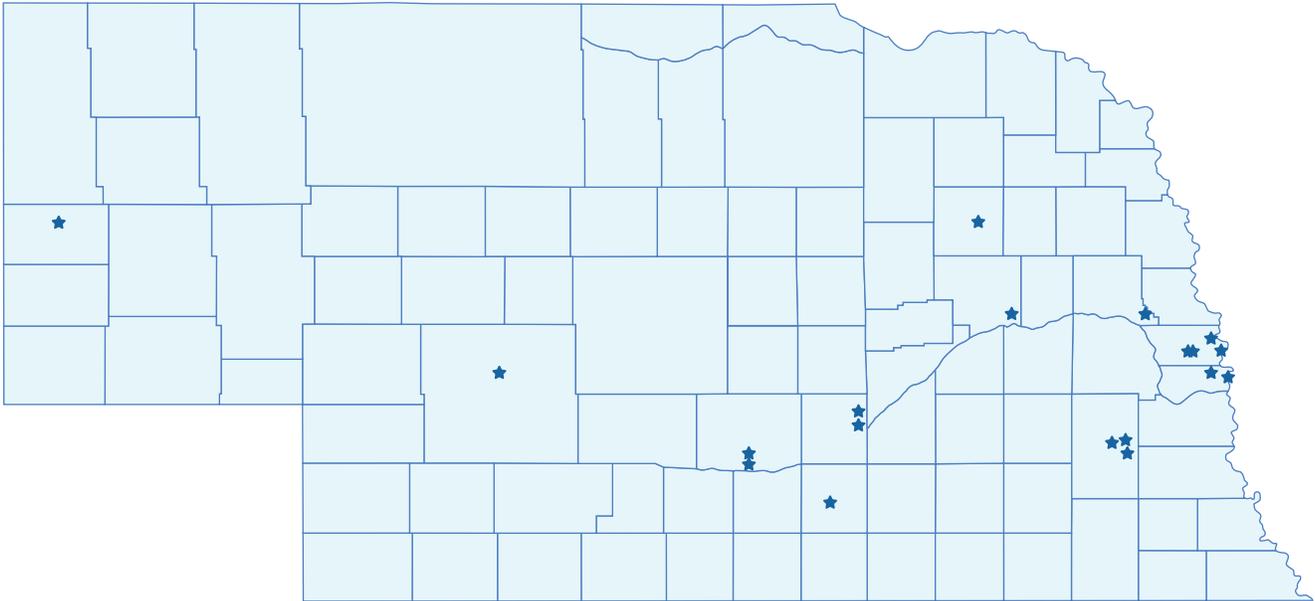
## CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

Annie Jeffrey Memorial County Health Center	Osceola	Franciscan Healthcare	West Point	Niobrara Valley Hospital	Lynch
Antelope Memorial Hospital	Neligh	Franklin County Memorial Hospital	Franklin	Ogallala Community Hospital	Ogallala
Avera Creighton Hospital	Creighton	Garden County Health Services	Oshkosh	Osmond General Hospital	Osmond
Avera St. Anthony's Hospital	O'Neill	Genoa Medical Facilities	Genoa	Pawnee County Memorial Hospital	Pawnee City
Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center	Beatrice	Gordon Memorial Health Services	Gordon	Pender Community Hospital	Pender
Boone County Health Center	Albion	Gothenburg Health	Gothenburg	Perkins County Health Services	Grant
Box Butte General Hospital	Alliance	Harlan County Health System	Alma	Phelps Memorial Health Center	Holdrege
Brodstone Healthcare	Superior	Henderson Health Care	Henderson	Providence Medical Center	Wayne
Brown County Hospital	Ainsworth	Howard County Medical Center	St Paul	Rock County Hospital	Bassett
Butler County Health Care Center	David City	Jefferson Community Health & Life	Fairbury	Saunders Medical Center	Wahoo
Callaway District Hospital	Callaway	Jennie M. Melham Memorial Medical Center	Broken Bow	Sidney Regional Medical Center	Sidney
Chadron Community Hospital & Health Services	Chadron	Johnson County Hospital	Tecumseh	Syracuse Area Health	Syracuse
Chase County Community Hospital	Imperial	Kearney County Health Services	Minden	Thayer County Health Services	Hebron
Cherry County Hospital	Valentine	Kimball Health Services	Kimball	Tri Valley Health System	Cambridge
CHI Health Plainview	Plainview	Lexington Regional Health Center	Lexington	Twelve Clans Unity Hospital	Winnebago
CHI Health Schuyler	Schuyler	Memorial Community Health	Aurora	Valley County Health System	Ord
CHI Health St Mary's Community Hospital	Nebraska City	Memorial Community Hospital & Health System	Blair	Webster County Community Hospital	Red Cloud
Community Medical Center, Inc.	McCook	Memorial Healthcare Systems	Seward	West Holt Medical Services	Atkinson
Cozad Community Health System	Falls City	Merrick Medical Center	Central City	York General	York
Crete Area Medical Center	Crete	Morrill County Community Hospital	Bridgeport		
Dundy County Hospital	Benkelman	Nemaha County Hospital	Auburn		
Fillmore County Hospital	Geneva				

## RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITALS

Friend Community Healthcare System      Friend

# Non-Critical Access Hospitals



## GENERAL ACUTE CARE

Bryan Medical Centers	Lincoln
CHI Health CUMC - Bergan Mercy	Omaha
CHI Health Good Samaritan	Kearney
CHI Health Immanuel	Omaha
CHI Health Lakeside	Omaha
CHI Health Midlands	Papillion
CHI Health Nebraska Heart	Lincoln
CHI Health St. Elizabeth	Lincoln
CHI Health St. Francis	Grand Island
Columbus Community Hospital	Columbus
Faith Regional Health Services	Norfolk
Grand Island Regional Medical Center	Grand Island
Great Plains Health	North Platte
Kearney Regional Medical Center	Kearney
Mary Lanning Healthcare	Hastings
Methodist Fremont Health	Fremont
Methodist Health Hospital	Omaha
Methodist Women's Hospital	Omaha
Nebraska Medicine - Bellevue	Bellevue
Nebraska Medicine	Omaha
Regional West Health Services	Scottsbluff

## CHILDRENS

Boys Town National Research Hospital	Omaha
Children's Nebraska	Omaha

## REHABILITATION

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital	Lincoln
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital	Omaha

## LONG TERM ACUTE CARE

Select Specialty Hospital	Omaha
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## SPECIALTY

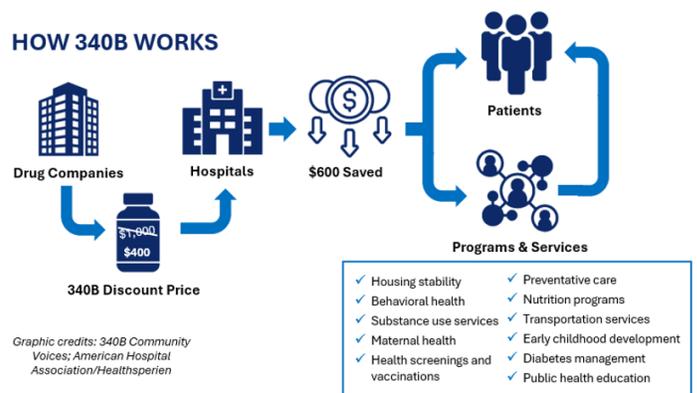
OrthoNebraska	Omaha
Nebraska Spine Hospital	Omaha

# 340B Community Benefits Program

The 340B Community Benefits Program allows covered safety net hospitals and other community care organizations to access certain outpatient prescription drugs at discounted prices. The program has been an integral part of the fabric of health care since its inception by Congress in 1992 and does not require any state or federal taxpayer dollars.

Nebraska hospitals have been able to drive savings from the program into their communities for more than 30 years, supporting access to care for the most vulnerable patients. One of the greatest strengths of the 340B program is the flexibility it provides hospitals to invest savings back into local health care needs.

The 340B program is critical to hospitals throughout Nebraska, helping them navigate out of control drug costs and retain low-cost access to care. The program is more important than ever as drug prices are the most rapidly growing expense for hospitals. Restrictions imposed by drug companies on 340B discounts for contract pharmacies are exacerbating the financial strain on Nebraska’s 340B hospitals, particularly rural ones, as they struggle to maintain affordable access to medications for their patients. Discriminatory practices and burdensome administrative hurdles result in dollars being taken from rural 340B entities and the communities they serve to further pad the enormous profit margins of out-of-state drug manufacturers.



**Without 340B savings, rural hospitals and clinics will have to scale back or eliminate these and other services.**

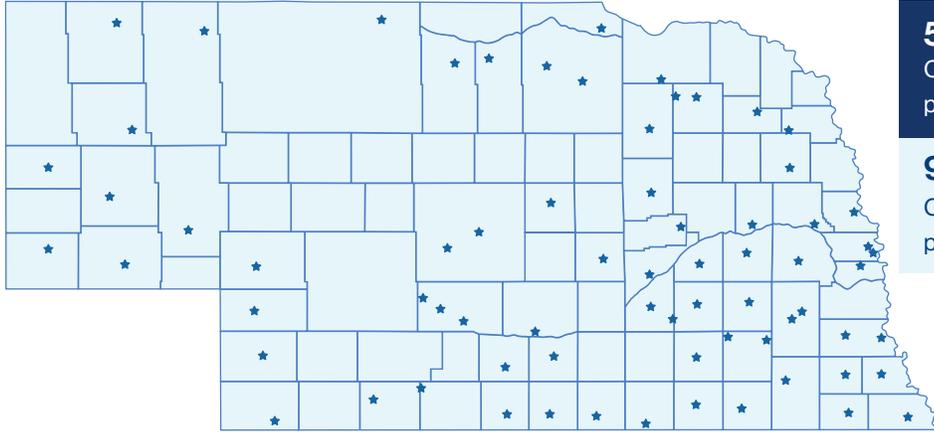
## 340B PARTICIPATION HELPS TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN RURAL NEBRASKA SUCH AS:

- **AMBULANCE SERVICES**
- **FREE MONTHLY BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**
- **COMPREHENSIVE AMBULATORY & INPATIENT SERVICES**
- **MEDICATIONS FOR VULNERABLE PATIENTS**
- **RETAIL PHARMACY SERVICES (VACCINE EXPANSION, PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT)**
- **HOME HEALTH**
- **24/7 EMERGENCY CARE**
- **MATERNAL HEALTH**
- **SPECIALTY SERVICES (CARDIOLOGY, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY, ETC.)**
- **HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE**
- **ONCOLOGY CARE**
- **COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION & OUTREACH**
- **COMMUNITY WELLNESS & FITNESS CENTERS**
- **MEDICATION ASSISTANCE & DISCHARGE MEDICATIONS**
- **HEALTH FAIRS, SUPPORT GROUPS, & JOB SHADOWING**
- **BLOOD DRIVES**

# Nebraska 340B Community Benefits Program Hospitals

**62**  
Number of CAHs in Nebraska

**67**  
Total 340B hospitals in Nebraska



**58**  
CAHs in Nebraska that participate in 340B

**94%**  
CAHs in Nebraska that participate in 340B

As of January 1, 2025

Annie Jeffrey Memorial County Health Center	Osceola
Antelope Memorial Hospital	Neligh
Avera Creighton Hospital	Creighton
Avera St. Anthony's Hospital	O'Neill
Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center	Beatrice
Boone County Health Center	Albion
Box Butte General Hospital	Alliance
Boys Town National Research Hospital	Omaha
Brodstone Healthcare	Superior
Brown County Hospital	Ainsworth
Bryan Medical Centers	Lincoln
Butler County Health Care Center	David City
Callaway District Hospital	Callaway
Chadron Community Hospital & Health Services	Chadron
Chase County Community Hospital & Clinics	Imperial
Cherry County Hospital	Valentine
CHI Health Creighton (CUMC - Bergan Mercy)	Omaha
CHI Health Immanuel	Omaha
CHI Health Plainview	Plainview
CHI Health Schuyler	Schuyler
CHI Health St. Elizabeth	Lincoln
CHI Health St. Mary's	Nebraska City
Children's Nebraska	Omaha
Community Hospital	McCook
Community Medical Center	Falls City
Cozad Community Hospital	Cozad
Crete Area Medical Center	Crete
Dundy County Hospital	Benkelman
Faith Regional Health Services	Norfolk
Fillmore County Hospital	Geneva
Franciscan Healthcare	West Point
Genoa Community Hospital	Genoa
Gordon Memorial Hospital	Gordon
Gothenburg Health	Gothenburg

Harlan County Health System	Alma
Henderson Health Care Services	Henderson
Howard County Medical Center	St. Paul
Jefferson Community Health & Life	Fairbury
Johnson County Hospital	Tecumseh
Kearney County Health Services	Minden
Kimball Health Services Clinic	Kimball
Lexington Regional Health Center	Lexington
Memorial Community Health	Aurora
Memorial Community Hospital & Health System	Blair
Memorial Health Care Systems	Seward
Merrick Medical Center	Central City
Morrill County Community Hospital	Bridgeport
Nebraska Medicine	Omaha
Nemaha County Hospital	Auburn
Ogallala Community Hospital	Ogallala
Osmond General Hospital	Osmond
Pawnee County Memorial Hospital	Pawnee City
Pender Community Hospital	Pender
Perkins County Health Services	Grant
Phelps Memorial Health Center	Holdrege
Providence Medical Center	Wayne
Regional West Medical Center	Scottsbluff
Rock County Hospital	Bassett
Saunders Medical Center	Wahoo
Sidney Regional Medical Center	Sidney
Syracuse Area Health	Syracuse
Thayer County Health Services	Hebron
Tri Valley Health System	Cambridge
Valley County Health System Hospital	Ord
Webster County Community Hospital	Red Cloud
West Holt Medical Clinic	Atkinson
York General Hospital	York

NOTE: Blue highlights are used to indicate Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs).

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## Quality and Patient Safety

Ensuring quality and patient safety is a never-ending job in a hospital. Hospitals continually strive to provide quality care and keep patients safe.

Hospitals spend significant resources on identifying, implementing, and monitoring the quality and safety of care provided to patients. While quality and safety programs are mandated by both state and federal entities, many hospitals also seek accreditation from entities recognized in the health care industry as having developed exceptional standards to which a hospital can be compared.

Quality in hospitals can be divided into these areas:

- Clinical Quality and Outcomes
- Patient Safety, Including Infection Prevention
- Patient Satisfaction
- Cost Efficiency

### CLINICAL QUALITY

Clinical quality is the actual medical care that a patient receives. Process measures are one way to measure this type of quality. Measures are founded on proven evidence-based medicine and assess the process of care a patient receives based on a disease-specific category. For example, did a sepsis patient receive certain care within the accepted time frame? Clinical quality also considers outcome measures such as readmissions and mortality.

### PATIENT SAFETY & INFECTION PREVENTION

Patient safety in a hospital is defined as keeping the patient safe from harmful events such as errors, complications, and infections. Hospitals have extensive programs in place to prevent these potential complications.

### PATIENT SATISFACTION

Patient satisfaction is the perception of care that the patient received while in the hospital. Patient satisfaction is measured by the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey. The survey includes 27 questions in seven areas. Some examples include: doctor communication, cleanliness of the hospital, and pain management.

### COST EFFICIENCY

Cost efficiency is a measure of resources used in an episode of care related to a specific condition. These resources can be Medicare program costs and beneficiary payments. For example, the amount Medicare paid a hospital for care provided to a hip replacement patient while in the hospital and for any care provided within 30 days of the surgery.

# Quality, Patient Safety, and Regulatory Oversight

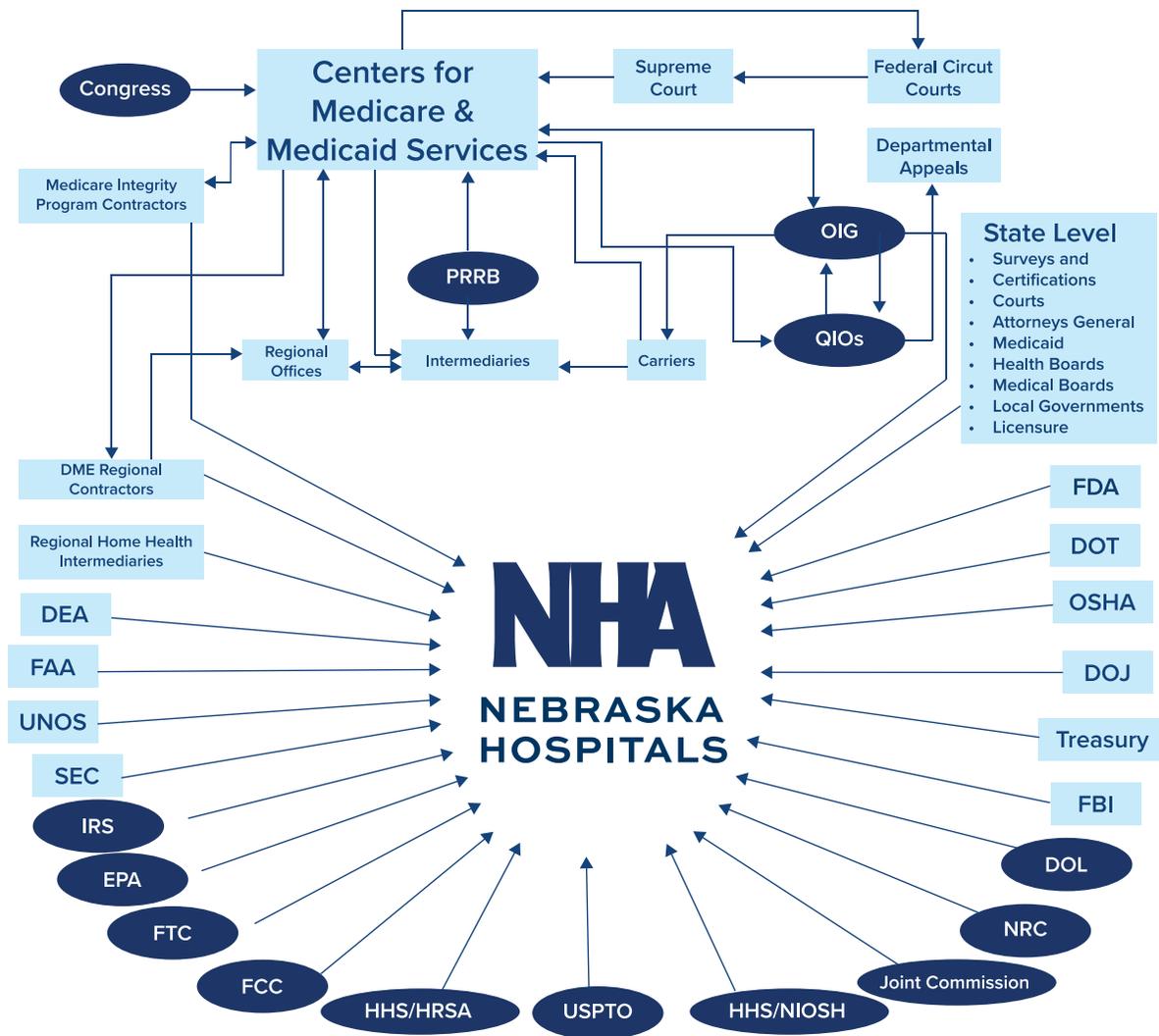


Figure 1: Regulatory entities providing oversight of the hospital industry

**DEA:** Drug Enforcement Administration  
**FAA:** Federal Aviation Administration  
**OPOS:** Organ Procurement Organizations  
**SEC:** Securities and Exchange Commission  
**IRS:** Internal Revenue Service  
**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency  
**FTC:** Federal Trade Commission  
**FCC:** Federal Commerce Commission  
**HHS:** Health and Human Services

**HRSA:** Health Resources and Services Administration  
**NIOSH:** National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
**JOINT COMMISSION:** Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations  
**NRC:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
**DOL:** Department of Labor  
**FBI:** Federal Bureau of Investigation  
**DOJ:** Department of Justice

**OSHA:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
**DOT:** Department of Transportation  
**FDA:** Food and Drug Administration  
**OIG:** Office of Inspector General  
**QIGs:** Quality Improvement Organizations  
**PRRB:** Provider Reimbursement Review Board

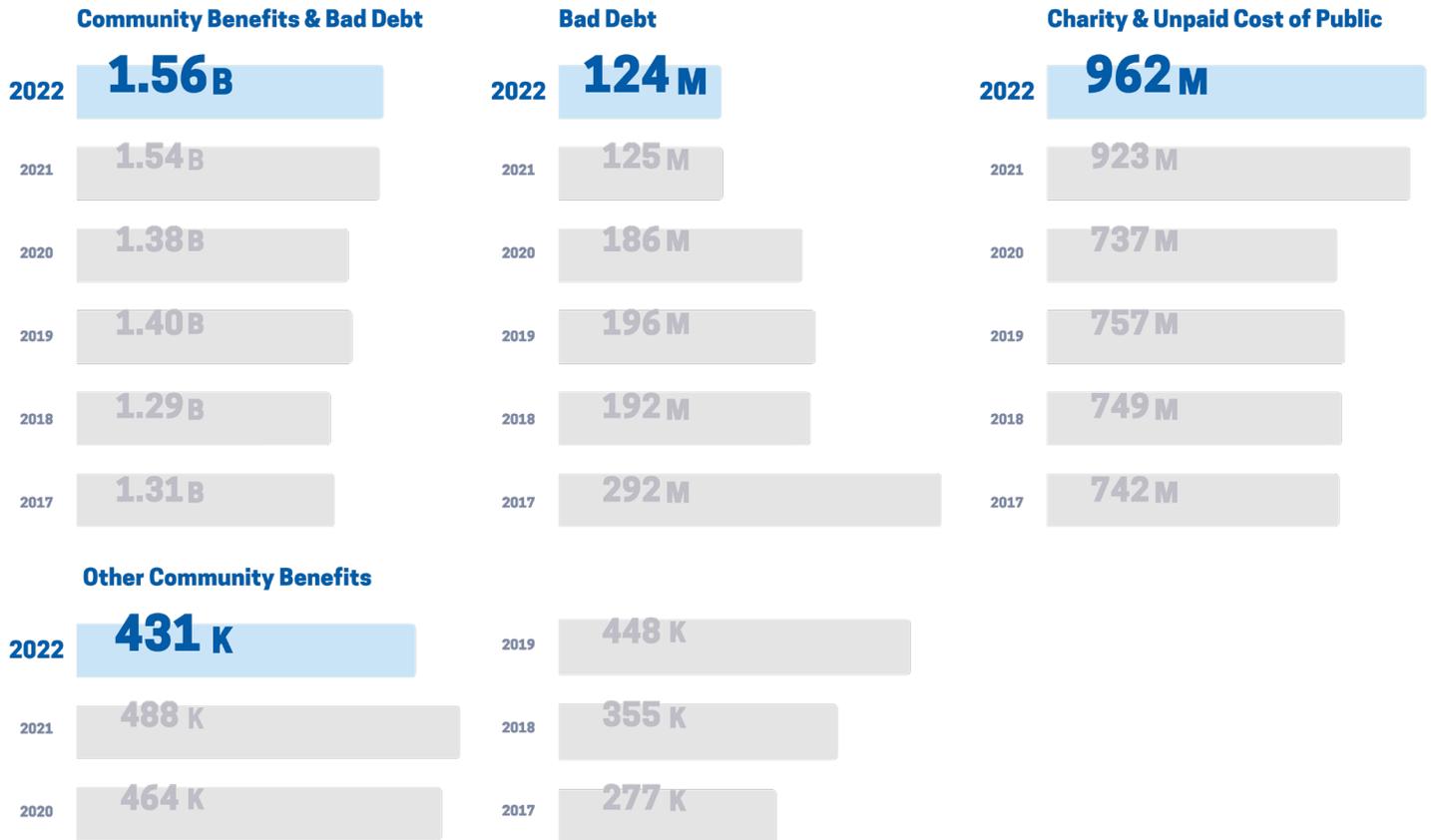
## Community Benefits Provided by Nebraska Hospitals

Every year the Nebraska Hospital Association conducts a survey of its member hospitals to measure the amount of community benefits that have been provided statewide. But what do the numbers really mean? The fact is that the impact of community benefits provided by Nebraska hospitals goes far beyond the numbers. The true impact of these programs is personal and positively impacts the lives of individuals across the state.

Nebraska hospitals serve as the safety net in each of their communities and strive to improve the health and wellness of their patients 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

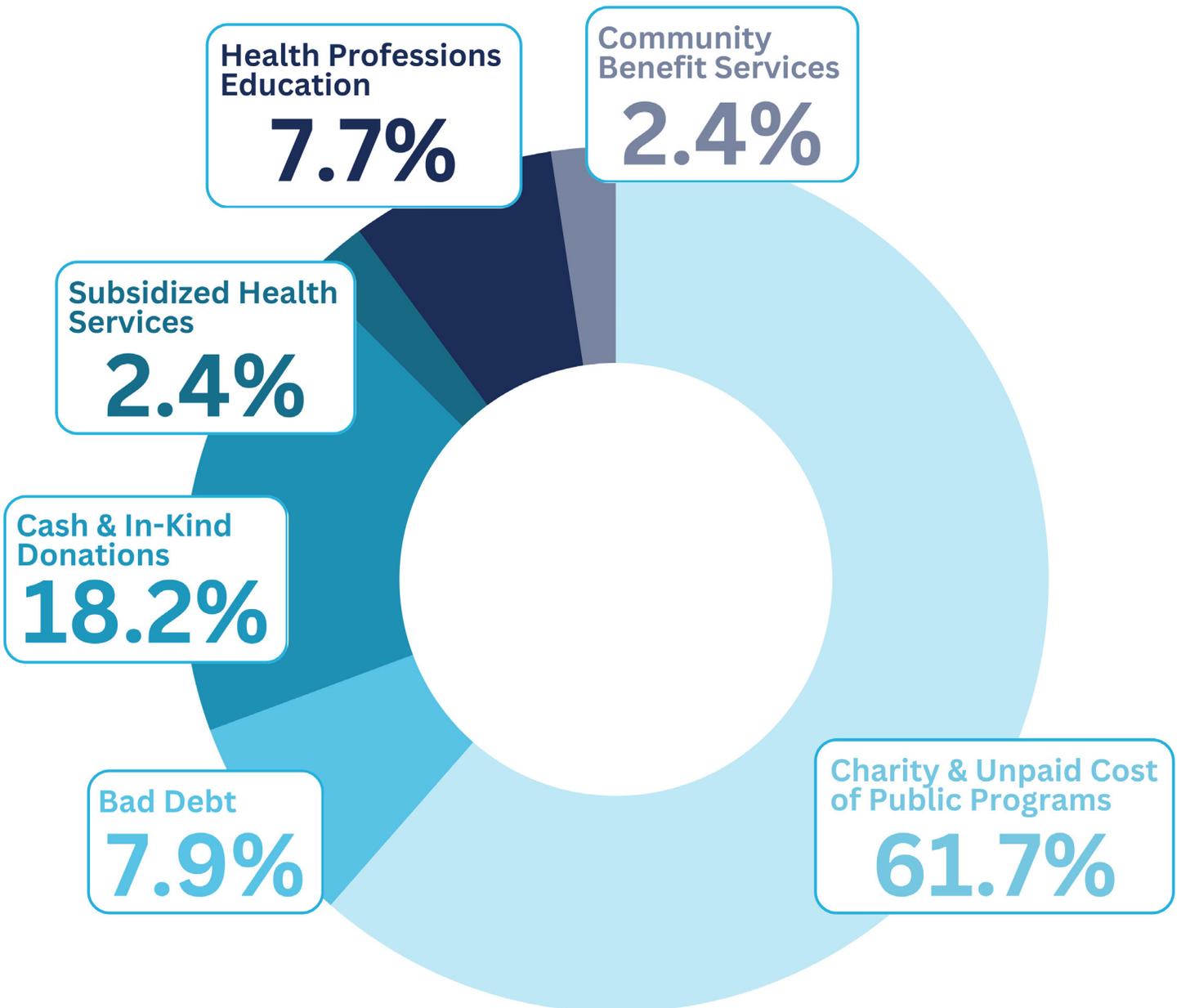
In 2022, Nebraska hospitals contributed almost \$1.56 billion (nearly \$124 million of that in bad debt) to support programs that benefited their communities.

These programs included providing free care to individuals that were unable to pay, absorbing the unpaid costs of public programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, offering community education and outreach, providing scholarships and residencies for health professionals, subsidizing health services that are reimbursed at amounts below the cost of providing the care, conducting research, and incurring bad debt from individuals that choose not to pay their bills.



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## Community Benefits Summary



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## Glossary of Terms

### **340B**

Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act mandates that pharmaceutical manufacturers sell discounted outpatient drugs to healthcare organizations, including hospitals serving low-income and uninsured patients. For over 30 years, the 340B program has helped hospitals manage rising prescription drug costs.

### **ACCREDITATION**

Certification by a recognized organization that an individual, a service or a facility has met a set of standardized criteria, typically determined by a process set by the certifying organization.

### **ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL**

A facility that provides services designed to meet the needs of patients who require short-term care for a period of less than 30 days.

### **ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL**

Trained and licensed (when necessary) individuals who provide direct patient care under supervision. Examples include therapists, technologists, and technicians in various medical fields.

### **AMBULATORY CARE**

Health care services provided on an outpatient basis, where no overnight stay in a health care facility is required.

### **AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER**

A facility for surgical procedures with on-call physicians, on-site nurses, and recovery for up to 23 hours post-surgery.

### **BAD DEBT**

The costs absorbed by hospitals or physicians for care provided to patients who were expected to pay but did not. This differs from charity care.

### **CHARGE**

The dollar amount that a health care provider assigns to a specific unit of service to a patient. A “charge” may not be totally reflective of the actual cost involved in providing that service.

### **CHARITY CARE**

The unreimbursed cost to a hospital or health system for providing free or discounted care to persons who cannot pay and who are not eligible for public programs.

### **CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

Hospitals with inpatients predominantly age 18 or younger and provide vital health care to all children.

### **COMMUNITY BENEFIT**

Programs or services that address community health needs, particularly those of the low-income, minorities, and other underserved groups, and provide measurable improvement in health access, health status, and use of health care resources.

### **CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL (CAH)**

Established under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, CAHs are limited-service hospitals located in rural areas with no more than 25 acute-care beds. They receive cost-based reimbursement for Medicare patients and are relieved from some Medicare regulations.

### **DIAGNOSIS RELATED GROUP (DRG)**

A method of classifying inpatients into groupings based on common characteristics, each of which can be expected to require similar services. Used as the basis of the Medicare inpatient prospective payment system (PPS).

### **GENERAL ACUTE CARE**

A hospital provides short-term treatment for severe injuries, illnesses, or conditions from disease, trauma, or surgery recovery, typically delivered by various clinical staff.

### **HOME HEALTH**

Medical and non-medical services, such as nursing care, therapy, and daily living assistance, provided at home to promote independence and recovery.

### **HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE**

Services focused on providing comfort, pain relief, and emotional support to patients with terminal illnesses or chronic conditions, and their families, emphasizing quality of life rather than curative treatment.

### **HOSPITAL CONSUMER ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND SYSTEMS (HCAHPS)**

A standardized survey measuring patients' perceptions of hospital care, focusing on communication, staff responsiveness, cleanliness, pain management, and overall satisfaction. HCAHPS results enable hospital comparisons to improve care quality and patient satisfaction.

### **JOINT COMMISSION**

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

### **LONG-TERM ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL (LTAC)**

A hospital providing specialized care to medically complex patients who usually require an extended hospital stay.

### **LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY (LTCF)**

Any residential health care facility that administers health, rehabilitative, or personal services for a prolonged period of time.

### **LONG-TERM CARE HOSPITALS (LTCH)**

Hospitals that care for patients with complex conditions like brain injury, prolonged ventilation, and organ failure, requiring extended stays. To qualify for Medicare, they must meet acute care standards and have an average stay over 25 days, with Medicare covering about two-thirds of discharges.

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## Glossary of Terms (Cont.)

### MANAGED CARE

A system of health care in which patients are able to visit only certain doctors and hospitals, and in which the cost of treatment is monitored by a managing company.

### MEDICAID

A joint federal and state program that provides health insurance to low-income individuals and families. Medicaid covers a wide range of health services, including hospital stays, doctor visits, and long-term care, with eligibility and benefits varying by state.

### MEDICARE

A federal health insurance program primarily for individuals aged 65 and older, as well as younger individuals with certain disabilities or end-stage renal disease. Medicare is divided into parts covering hospital insurance (Part A), medical insurance (Part B), Medicare Advantage (Part C), and prescription drugs (Part D).

### MITIGATION

Actions to reduce the severity or likelihood of a disaster.

### OUTPATIENT PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM (OPPS)

A determined payment rate for a Medicaid outpatient procedure regardless of services rendered or the intensity of the services.

### PAYER

An organization or person who directly reimburses health care providers for their services.

### PREPAREDNESS

Planning and training for effective disaster response.

### PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM (PPS)

A system in which payment for services is determined before the services are provided and that amount is reimbursed to the provider regardless of the actual cost of services.

### QUALITY MEASURE

Also called a quality indicator, this is a specific process or outcome that can be measured.

### REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

Also known as an inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF), is a hospital that provides therapeutic and restorative services to individuals seeking to maintain, reestablish, or improve motor skills and other functioning deemed medically necessary for daily living, that have been lost or impaired due to sickness and/or injury.

### RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Strategically distributing available resources during emergencies.

### RETAIL PHARMACY SERVICES

Pharmacy services provided by retail locations, including prescription dispensing, over-the-counter medication sales, vaccination services, and patient counseling on medication usage and health conditions.

### RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL (REH)

Created by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, the REH designation helps prevent rural hospital closures by allowing CAHs and certain rural hospitals to offer emergency, observation, and outpatient services with a ~24-hour stay, effective January 1, 2023.

### RURAL HEALTH CLINICS (RHC)

The Rural Health Clinic Service Act of 1977 addressed physician shortages in rural areas by expanding the use of NPs, PAs, and CNMs. Medicare pays RHCs a fixed rate for primary and preventive services. Nebraska has hospital-based RHCs serving underserved rural areas.

### SPECIALTY HOSPITAL

A limited-service hospital designed to provide one medical specialty such as orthopedic or cardiac care.

### SPECIALTY SERVICES

Specialized health care services provided by experts in fields like cardiology, oncology, behavioral health, and obstetrics/gynecology, addressing complex medical needs not covered by primary care.

### STATE HOSPITAL

A hospital owned by the State of Nebraska, including one behavioral health hospital, one acute care hospital, one specialty hospital, and two correctional facility hospitals. Federal hospitals, like veterans' hospitals, are owned by the federal government.

### SWING BEDS

Acute care hospital beds that can be used for long-term care based on patient and community needs. Available only in rural hospitals with fewer than 100 beds, where long-term care may be limited.

### TRAUMA

An injury or injuries caused by external force or violence. Trauma injuries may range from minor to severe, from obvious to non-apparent, and may include single or multiple injuries.

### UNCOMPENSATED CARE

Care given for which payment is not received, or for which only a portion of the cost is reimbursed. Includes charity care, Medicaid underpayments, legislated care underpayments, and bad debt.

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## Glossary of Terms — Acronyms

- AHA**  
American Hospital Association, the nation's principal trade association for hospitals with offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago.
- CMS**  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, a federal agency overseeing Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program to ensure quality health care.
- DEA**  
Drug Enforcement Administration, a federal agency under the Department of Justice tasked with enforcing controlled substance laws and combating drug-related crimes.
- DHS**  
Department of Homeland Security, focusing on public safety and disaster readiness.
- DOJ**  
Department of Justice, the federal executive department responsible for enforcing laws, ensuring public safety, and administering justice in the United States.
- DOL**  
Department of Labor, the federal agency that protects workers' rights, promotes workplace safety and enforces labor laws.
- DOT**  
Department of Transportation, the federal entity responsible for maintaining and improving the nation's transportation systems, including those critical for health care delivery and disaster response.
- EPA**  
Environmental Protection Agency, a federal agency dedicated to protecting human health and the environment through regulations addressing pollution and sustainability.
- ESF**  
Emergency Support Functions, the primary federal response structure for disasters.
- FAA**  
Federal Aviation Administration, the agency within the DOT responsible for regulating civil aviation safety and efficiency, including emergency medical transport systems.
- FBI**  
Federal Bureau of Investigation, the principal federal law enforcement agency responsible for investigating and preventing crimes such as terrorism, cyber threats, and health care fraud.
- FCC**  
Federal Commerce Commission, a government agency regulating communication channels, critical for hospital and public health emergency alert systems.
- FDA**  
Food and Drug Administration, the federal agency responsible for ensuring the safety and efficacy of drugs, medical devices, food products, and cosmetics.
- FEMA**  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, responsible for coordinating disaster response.
- FTC**  
Federal Trade Commission, a federal agency that enforces antitrust laws and promotes consumer protection, including in the health care sector.
- HCAHPS**  
Hospital Consumer Assessment of Health Care Providers and Systems, a survey measuring patient perspectives on hospital care.
- HHS**  
Health and Human Services, the U.S. government department overseeing public health, social services, and safety programs, including Medicare and Medicaid.
- HIPAA**  
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, a federal law protecting patient privacy and ensuring the security of medical records.
- HRSA**  
Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of HHS focused on improving health care access for underserved populations through funding and resource allocation.
- ICS**  
Incident Command System, a standardized approach to command and control during emergencies.
- IRS**  
Internal Revenue Services, the federal agency responsible for collecting taxes and administering the Internal Revenue Code, including hospital nonprofit status compliance.
- NIMS**  
National Incident Management System, a framework for disaster response coordination.
- NIOSH**  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, a federal agency conducting research and providing recommendations to prevent work-related injuries and illnesses.
- NRC**  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the agency responsible for regulating the nation's civilian use of nuclear materials to ensure safety and environmental protection.

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## Glossary of Terms — Acronyms (Cont.)

### **OIG**

Office of Inspector General, a federal office overseeing integrity and efficiency in government health care programs, with a focus on fraud prevention in health care programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

### **OSHA**

Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a federal agency ensuring safe and healthy work environments through standards enforcement and training programs.

### **OPOS**

Organ Procurement Organizations, certified entities facilitating the donation and transplantation of organs, critical for hospital transplant services.

### **PRRB**

Provider Reimbursement Review Board, an independent body resolving disputes between health care providers and CMS regarding Medicare payments.

### **QIO**

Quality Improvement Organizations, groups contracted by CMS to ensure quality care for Medicare beneficiaries by reviewing medical services and providing quality improvement assistance.

### **SEC**

Securities and Exchange Commission, the federal agency responsible for enforcing securities laws, regulating the securities industry, and protecting investors.



Ph: 402-742-8140 | Fax: 402-742-8191  
Jeremy Nordquist, President  
[nebraskahospitals.org](http://nebraskahospitals.org)